

INVITATION TOURNAMENT

By Arthur J. Daley

(Basketball Writer, The New York Times.)

Don't look now but the annual National Invitation Tournament is not far off. This gaudy season has whisked along at so fast a pace that it seems hard to realize that only four more regular Garden double-headers are left.

For the past two years the closing event has been the National Invitation Tournament. The idea was furnished by the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association which wanted the court game to have something resembling a finale. So the busy scribes turned promoters and produced two gorgeous tournaments.

That proved beyond peradventure the soundness of the scheme. But we press box inmates soon became slightly muscle-bound from patting ourselves on the back. We liked the tournament and wanted it to continue but we felt that our business was writing, not promoting.

So this year the tournament will have a new sponsor. We handed the show over to the Metropolitan colleges, lock, stock and barrel. They appointed a tourney committee with Professor Walter Williamson of City College as the chairman. On the committee with him will be representatives from Manhattan and Brooklyn College along with Asa Bushnell, czar of the Central Office for Eastern Intercollegiate Athletics, and Everett Morris, a very clever young man who will represent the writers.

The thought behind the City-Manhattan-Brooklyn representation was that those schools will have only an academic interest in the tournament this year and would be better fitted to pick local entrants from among L.I.U., N.Y.U., St. John's, Fordham and St. Francis than they would themselves.

So there is the technical set-up at any rate. Now as to dates. The ones that are being held by the Garden for the tournament are Monday, March 11; Wednesday, the 13th and either Friday, the 15th, or Wednesday, the 20th.

As for the teams that will actually participate in the tournament your guess is as good as mine. It is still much too early to venture an opinion as to what quintets will be invited but a sharp watch is being kept all over the country so that the very best combinations can be brought to New York.

About all that can be guaranteed is that the last two shows were excellent, crammed to the full with superb basketball. So there is every reason to believe that the 1940 offering will be able to match the others. Temple won in 1938 and LIU triumphed last year, each of them being acknowledged as the nation's No. 1 team.

So advice is hereby offered, free of charge, to come early and avoid the rush.

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REMEMBER - COMING SOON IS OUR CONVENTION AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE DATE - HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

OF THE BULLETIN, WHICH WILL REACH YOU MARCH 16, 1940.